

- (2) The nature and complexity of the appeal;³
- (3) The capacity in which the Representative has appeared;⁴
- (4) The actual time spent in connection with the Board appeal;⁵ and
- (5) Customary local charges for similar services.⁶

As required by the Board's regulations, appellant has been afforded written notice of the fee requested and provided an opportunity to comment on the fee petition.⁷

The Board, having considered the fee petition and supporting documentation, denies the fee petition. The Board finds that the petition provides insufficient information to allow approval of any portion of the amount claimed. The Board notes the following defects:⁸

- (1) Counsel submitted billing charges dated prior to the filing of appellant's appeal to the Board and did not explain why these charges are relevant to the subject appeal.
- (2) Counsel submitted statements with cost items that have been redacted with a marker. The Board has no knowledge of why the material was redacted and by whom.
- (3) Counsel submitted a statement dated August 29, 2008 which shows "payments on account" which are unexplained. The amounts total approximately \$20,000.00 and appear to represent a violation of Board regulations.
- (4) The fee petition does not adequately delineate the services performed relative to the appeal(s) before the Board and for what purposes. Discrete, listed services billed separately were not adequately described. Counsel used entries of three or four words to identify and explain the services the Board has been asked to approve.

³ The Board's evaluation of the "nature and complexity" of an appeal includes, but is not limited to, whether the issue appealed is novel or required extensive or unusual factual evidence or legal argument. The Board recognizes that not all complex issues are cases of first impression. However, the attorney must establish the complex or unusual nature of the appeal.

⁴ The Board's consideration of the "capacity" in which an attorney appears includes, but is not limited to, whether the attorney obtained a written retainer and fee agreement.

⁵ The Board's evaluation of an attorney's itemized statement of work and charges includes, but is not limited to, whether the statement is clear, detailed and describes those aspects of the appeal which merit the fee claimed and whether counsel has personally affirmed the correctness of the fee. No stipulated or contingent fee will be approved by the Board. 20 C.F.R. § 501.9(e).

⁶ The Board's consideration of customary, local fees recognizes that attorneys often have clients in several states and that local custom must be balanced against national practice in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act appeals.

⁷ 20 C.F.R. § 501.9(e).

⁸ This list is intended to assist counsel but does not limit the Board's discretion to evaluate any future fee petition on its own merits.

(5) The fee petition fails to explain in detail how the claimed fee is justified under the five factors listed in this order. The Board request that counsel provide information specific to his petition in this appeal rather than generic material unrelated to this appellant.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the fee petition is denied and may be resubmitted to the Board within 60 days of the date of this order.⁹

Issued: August 27, 2014
Washington, DC

Michael E. Groom, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

James A. Haynes, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

⁹ Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge, who participated in the preparation of the opinion, was no longer a member of the Board after May 16, 2014.